

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for initializing a SNMP (simple network management protocol) v3 device using an SNMP agent in the SNMPv3 device and an SNMP manager remote from the SNMPv3 device, comprising:

~~, wherein an SNMP manager and an SNMP agent in the SNMPv3 device utilize~~  
utilizing a Diffie-Hellman key exchange protocol by the SNMP manager and the SNMP agent to enter an initial privacy key and an initial authentication key into the SNMPv3 device,

wherein said utilizing step includes:

~~the SNMP manager and the SNMP agent both generate~~ generating an associated random number and public value by both the SNMP manager and the SNMP agent;

~~wherein the SNMP manager passes its~~ passing the public value of the SNMP manager to the SNMP agent in a configuration file;

~~wherein the SNMP manager reads~~ reading, by the SNMP manager, the public value of the SNMP agent through a SNMP request using an initial valid user having access to the public value of the SNMP agent, ~~and;~~

~~wherein the SNMP agent and SNMP manager compute~~ computing a shared secret, by the SNMP agent and the SNMP manager, using the Diffie-Hellman key exchange protocol, ~~wherein the method is characterized by the steps of;~~

converting the shared secret into a readable password;

converting the readable password into a secret key; and  
setting ~~an~~ the initial authentication key and ~~an~~ the initial privacy key to the  
value of the secret key.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the readable password comprises a 16  
character password.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the secret key comprises a 16 byte  
string.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further characterized in that the configuration  
file comprises a proprietary configuration file element for passing the public value of the  
SNMP manager to the SNMP agent.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the SNMPv3 device operates in a  
SNMPv1/v2c enabled network comprising a SNMPv2c device, and wherein the proprietary  
configuration file element is ignored by the SNMPv2c device.

6. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the public value of the SNMP manager is  
included in a management information base (MIB) object in the configuration file.

7. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the public value of the SNMP manager is  
initially stored in a third entity different from that associated with the SNMP manager and the  
SNMP agent, and the method comprises downloading the configuration from the third entity  
by the SNMP agent.